

INSIGHTS

4.4%

February
Unemployment Rate

Volume 8: Issue 1 January-February 2018

SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

At A Glance

Employment, labor force and jobs continue to grow.1	
U.S. Unemployment Rate Steady in January 2018, S.C. Rate Ranked 29th Lowest	2
January Unemployment Rate by County.....	2
South Carolina Ranked 31st Lowest of 50 States and D.C. in February	3
February Unemployment Rate by County	3
South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for January - Seasonally Adjusted	4
South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for February - Seasonally Adjusted.....	5
Employment Changes by County	6
S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index Surges Higher in February 2018.....	7
South Carolina - Arts, Entertainment, and Recrea- tion.....	8

View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

Economic Indicators

February 2018 - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	SC
Labor Force	161,921,000	2,324,714
Employed	155,215,000	2,223,298
Unemployed	6,706,000	101,416
Unemp. Rate	4.1%	4.4%

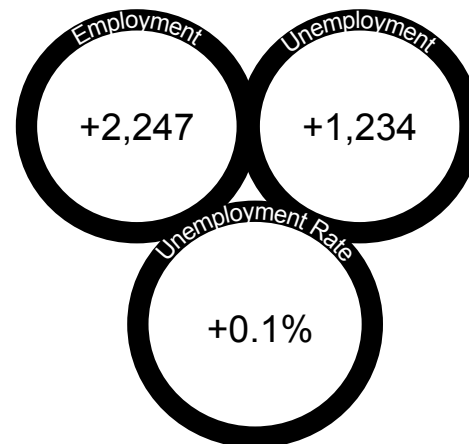
Employment, labor force and jobs continue to grow

People entering the state's labor force and the number of people finding work increased in February 2018. Businesses' payrolls also continued to grow by adding 9,400 jobs in the month, setting a new record level.

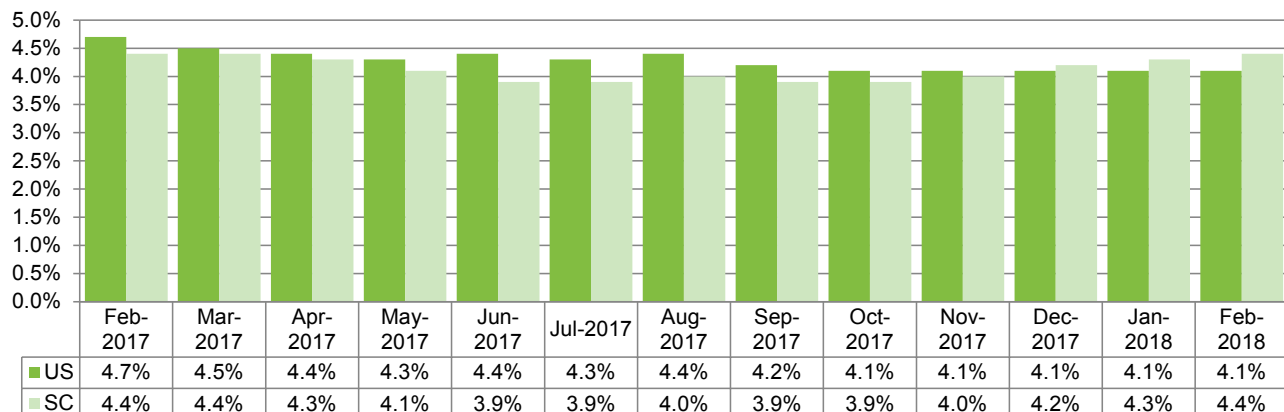
The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up to 4.4 percent in February from January's rate of 4.3 percent as the labor force rose by 3,481 to 2,324,714 people. The number of individuals working across the state increased by 2,247 to 2,223,298. The number of unemployed individuals increased by 1,234 to 101,416.

Since February of 2017, the labor force has grown by 19,596 people, and employment gains totaled 19,954. The level of unemployed decreased by 358.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged, remaining at 4.1 percent in February.



South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
February 2017 - February 2018



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2017 benchmark. To subscribe to **Insights**, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).



U.S. Unemployment Rate Steady in January 2018, S.C. Rate Ranked 29th Lowest

U.S. total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 200,000 in January 2018, and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 percent. After accounting for the annual adjustments to the population controls, the civilian labor force changed little in January, the labor force participation rate was 62.7 percent for the fourth consecutive month, and the employment-population ratio was 60.1 percent for the third month in a row. South Carolina's unemployment rate was 4.3 percent, ranking 29th lowest of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nationwide, construction added 36,000 jobs in January with most of the increase occurring among specialty trade contractors (+26,000). Employment in residential building construction continued to trend up over the month (+5,000). Over the year, construction employment has increased by 226,000. Employment in food services and drinking places continued to trend up in January (+31,000) as did health care (+21,000) and manufacturing (+15,000).

January Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted, county unemployment rate estimates rose in January as the not seasonally adjusted, statewide unemployment rate moved upward. Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 10.1 percent in Fairfield County to 4.0 percent in Charleston County. Fairfield County unemployment levels continue to be influenced by the July, 2017 closure of the V. C. Summer nuclear construction site.

Since January of 2017, employment levels in South Carolina counties, as a whole, have increased by approximately 20,000 people. County labor force data from years 2016 and 2017 will be revised by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and published on Friday, April 20th.



Hawaii	2.1
New Hampshire	2.6
North Dakota	2.6
Iowa	2.9
Nebraska	2.9
Vermont	2.9
Colorado	3.0
Idaho	3.0
Maine	3.0
Utah	3.1
Wisconsin	3.1
Indiana	3.3
Minnesota	3.3
Tennessee	3.3
South Dakota	3.4
Kansas	3.5
Massachusetts	3.5
Virginia	3.6
Alabama	3.7
Arkansas	3.7
Missouri	3.7
Florida	3.9
Texas	4.0
Maryland	4.1
Montana	4.1
Oklahoma	4.1
Oregon	4.1
Wyoming	4.1
United States	4.1
Kentucky	4.3
South Carolina	4.3
California	4.4
Connecticut	4.5
Delaware	4.5
Georgia	4.5
North Carolina	4.5
Rhode Island	4.5
Louisiana	4.6
Mississippi	4.6
Michigan	4.7
New Jersey	4.7
New York	4.7
Ohio	4.7
Washington	4.7
Arizona	4.8
Illinois	4.8
Pennsylvania	4.8
Nevada	4.9
West Virginia	5.4
District of Columbia	5.8
New Mexico	5.9
Alaska	7.3

January 2018

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Fairfield	10.1%	Charleston	4.0%
Marion	8.4%	Lexington	4.2%
Allendale	8.3%	Greenville	4.3%
Bamberg	8.2%	Berkeley	4.4%
Orangeburg	7.9%	Dorchester	4.4%

January 2018

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earning	\$1,100.03	\$851.98
Avg. Weekly Hours	41.0	44.7
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$26.83	\$19.06

South Carolina Ranked 31st Lowest of 50 States and D.C. in February

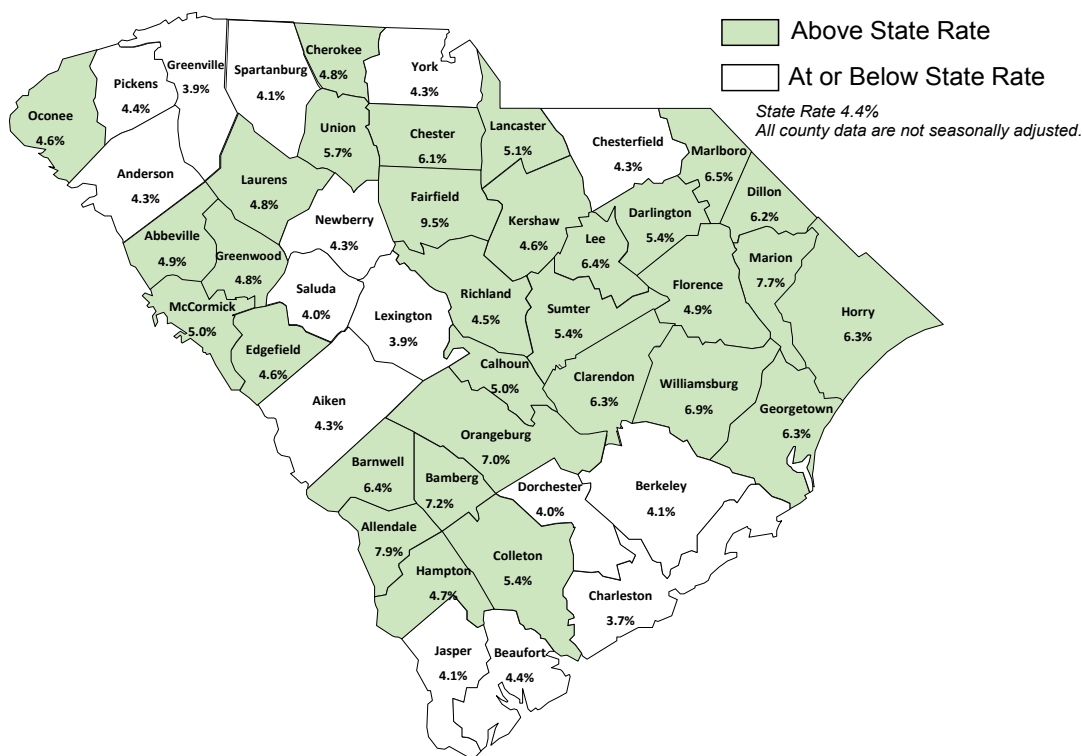
In February 2018, the U.S. unemployment rate was 4.1 percent for the fifth consecutive month, and the number of unemployed persons was essentially unchanged at 6.7 million. In February, South Carolina's unemployment rate ranked 31st lowest out of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Total nonfarm payroll employment across the country rose by 313,000 in February. Job gains occurred in construction, retail trade, professional and business services, manufacturing, financial activities, and mining.

February Unemployment Rate by County

Not seasonally adjusted, county unemployment rate estimates declined across the state in February as the not seasonally adjusted, statewide unemployment rate moved lower. The lone exception was Lee County with a slight increase of 0.1 percent to 6.4 percent. Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 9.5 percent in Fairfield County to 3.7 percent in Charleston County. Fairfield County unemployment levels continue to be influenced by the July, 2017 closure of the V. C. Summer nuclear construction site.

County data from years 2016 and 2017 will be revised by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and published on Friday, April 20th.



Hawaii	2.1
New Hampshire	2.6
North Dakota	2.6
Nebraska	2.8
Vermont	2.8
Iowa	2.9
Maine	2.9
Wisconsin	2.9
Colorado	3.0
Idaho	3.0
Utah	3.1
Indiana	3.2
Minnesota	3.2
Kansas	3.4
South Dakota	3.4
Tennessee	3.4
Massachusetts	3.5
Virginia	3.5
Alabama	3.7
Missouri	3.7
Arkansas	3.8
Florida	3.9
Texas	4.0
Wyoming	4.0
Kentucky	4.1
Montana	4.1
Oklahoma	4.1
Oregon	4.1
United States	4.1
Maryland	4.2
California	4.3
Delaware	4.4
South Carolina	4.4
Georgia	4.5
Louisiana	4.5
Mississippi	4.5
North Carolina	4.5
Ohio	4.5
Rhode Island	4.5
Connecticut	4.6
New Jersey	4.6
New York	4.6
Illinois	4.7
Washington	4.7
Michigan	4.8
Pennsylvania	4.8
Arizona	4.9
Nevada	4.9
West Virginia	5.4
District of Columbia	5.7
New Mexico	5.8
Alaska	7.3

February 2018

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Fairfield	9.5%	Charleston	3.7%
Allendale	7.9%	Greenville	3.9%
Marion	7.7%	Lexington	3.9%
Bamberg	7.2%	Dorchester	4.0%
Orangeburg	7.0%	Saluda	4.0%

February 2018

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	SC (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earning	\$1,100.03	\$826.44
Avg. Weekly Hours	41.0	44.6
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$26.83	\$18.53

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for January - Seasonally Adjusted

In January 2018 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 3,100 over the month to a record level of 2,113,100.

The increase in employment was primarily due to growth in Manufacturing (+3,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,400); Government (+400); Leisure and Hospitality (+200); Construction (+100); Education and Health Services (+100); and Information (+100).

Industries reporting declines during the same period were the Professional and Business Services (-1,800); Other Services (-1,000); and Financial Activities (-500) sectors.

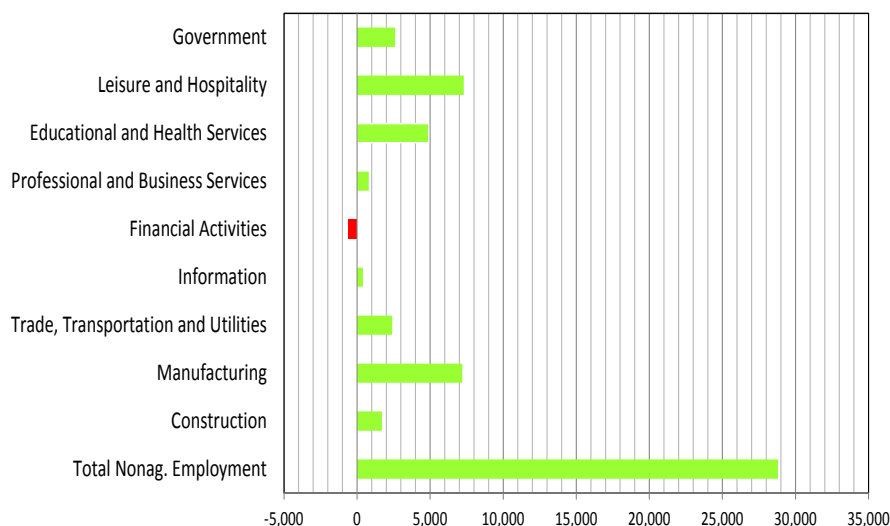
From January 2017 to January 2018, South Carolina's economy added 28,800 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs with the largest increases in the Leisure and Hospitality (+7,300); Manufacturing (+7,200); Education and Health Services (+4,900); Government (+2,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,400); Other Services (+2,100); Construction (+1,700); Professional and Business Services (+800); and Information (+400).

Declines were reported in the Financial Activities (-600) sector.

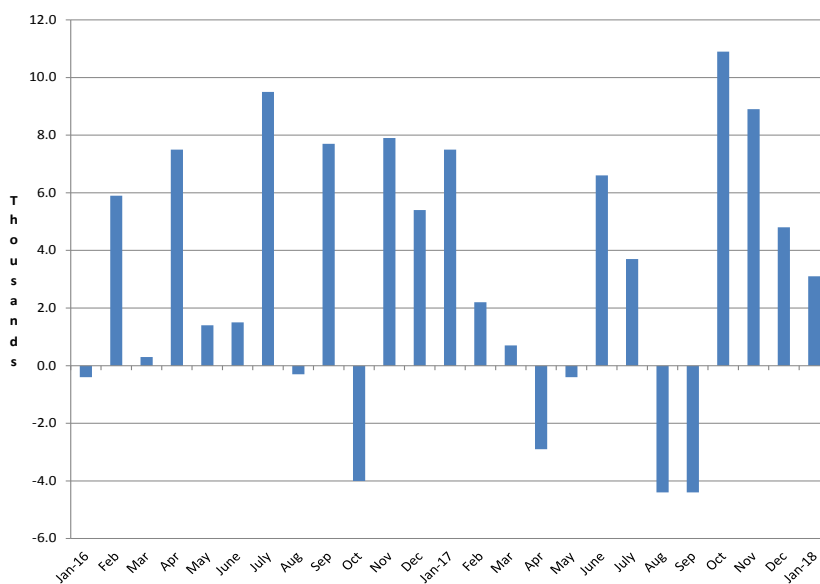
For the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, the seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll's most significant job growth was in Greenville (+4,100), followed by Myrtle Beach (+1,100), Sumter (+400), Columbia (+400), Spartanburg (+300), Charleston (+300), Hilton Head Bluffton Beaufort (+200) and Florence (+100). There were no over-the-month reported decreases.

Over-the-year, the Metropolitan Statistical Areas saw a surge in seasonally adjusted payroll. Notable employment gains were seen in Greenville (+10,900), Charleston (+5,100) and Spartanburg (+3,500).

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
January 2017 - January 2018 (SA)**



**SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2016 - 2018**



Economic Indicators (Jan. 2018)

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Sumter MSA	1.00%	1.52%
Greenville MSA	0.97%	2.64%
Florence MSA	0.11%	0.34%
Columbia MSA	0.10%	-0.75%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

(Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina Nonfarm Employment Trends for February - Seasonally Adjusted

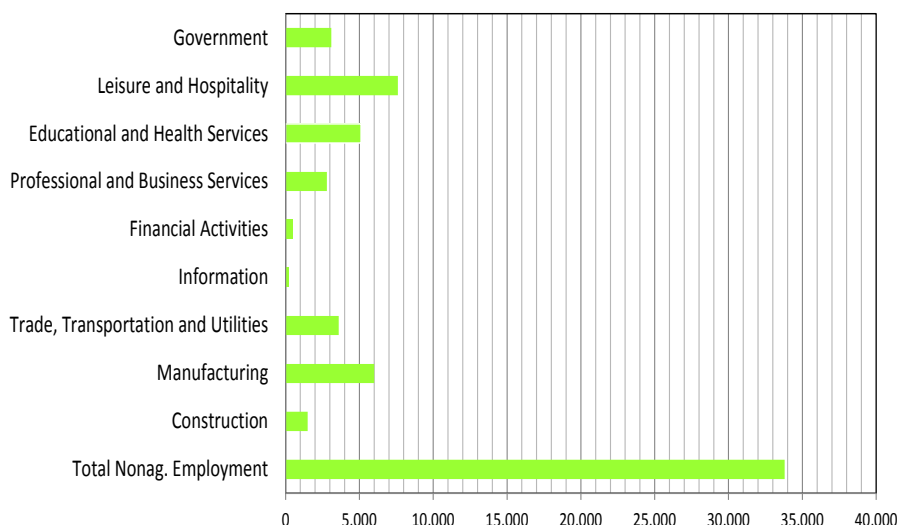
In February 2018 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 9,400 over the month to a record level of 2,120,300. The increase in employment was primarily due to growth in Professional and Business Services (+2,700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,200); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,400); Education and Health Services (+1,100); Other Services (+800); Financial Activities (+600); Manufacturing (+500); Construction (+100); and Government (+100). The only industry reporting a decline during the same period was Information (-100).

From February 2017 to February 2018, South Carolina's economy added 33,800 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs with noticeable gains in Leisure and Hospitality (+7,600); Manufacturing (+6,000); Education and Health Services (+5,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,600); Other Services (+3,300); Government (+3,100); Professional and Business Services (+2,800); Construction (+1,500); Financial Activities (+500); and Information (+200). No declines were reported during this time period.

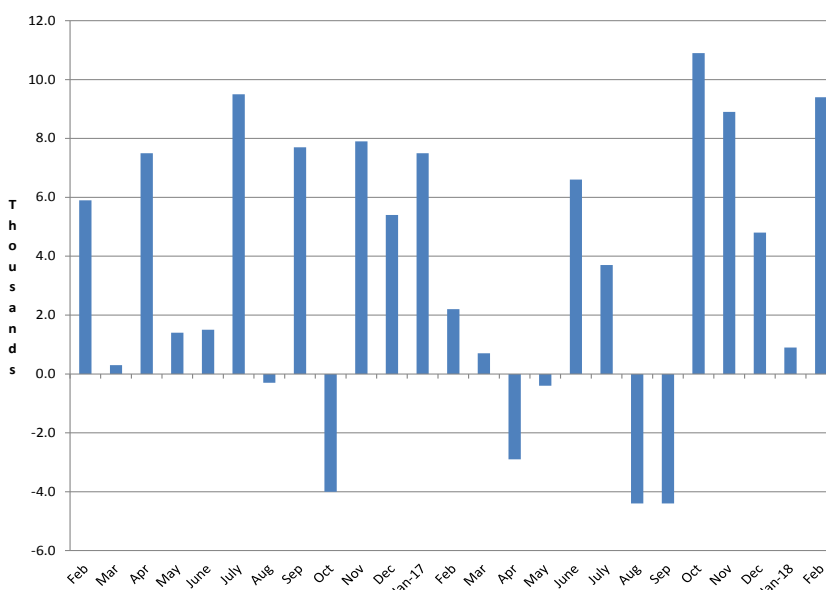
For the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll's most significant job growth was in Charleston (+1,900), Columbia and Myrtle Beach (+800), Spartanburg (+700) and Hilton Head Bluffton Beaufort (+100). Over-the-month reported decreases were in Greenville (-1,000) and Florence and Sumter (-100), respectively.

Over-the-year, the Metropolitan Statistical Areas saw a surge in seasonally adjusted payroll. Notable employment gains were seen in Greenville (+7,800), Charleston (+5,100) and Spartanburg (+4,600).

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
February 2017 - February 2018 (SA)**



**SC Total Nonfarm Jobs
2016 - 2018**



Economic Indicators (Feb. 2018)

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Charleston MSA	0.53%	1.45%
Columbia MSA	0.20%	-0.48%
Florence MSA	-0.11%	0.23%
Greenville MSA	-0.24%	1.89%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to

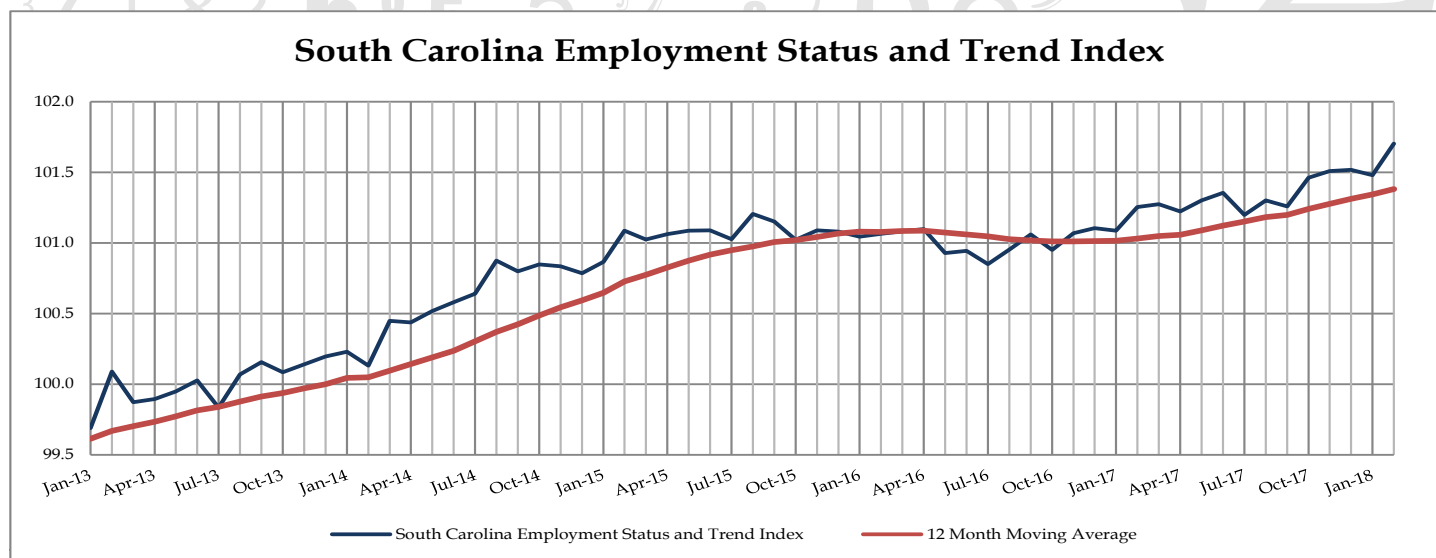
www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

(Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment Changes by County
December 2017 through February 2018

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Feb 2018	Jan 2018	Dec 2017	Jan '18 - Feb '18	Dec '17 - Jan '18
Abbeville	9,726	9,591	9,703	135	-112
Aiken	72,664	72,381	72,180	283	201
Allendale	2,612	2,609	2,622	3	-13
Anderson	86,476	85,885	86,171	591	-286
Bamberg	4,878	4,853	4,891	25	-38
Barnwell	7,730	7,670	7,718	60	-48
Beaufort	70,213	69,472	69,766	741	-294
Berkeley	94,280	93,051	93,704	1,229	-653
Calhoun	6,470	6,413	6,437	57	-24
Charleston	197,280	194,511	195,975	2,769	-1,464
Cherokee	23,361	23,059	23,292	302	-233
Chester	12,837	12,795	12,882	42	-87
Chesterfield	20,948	20,773	20,940	175	-167
Clarendon	11,906	11,824	11,882	82	-58
Colleton	16,343	16,136	16,293	207	-157
Darlington	28,294	28,117	28,154	177	-37
Dillon	12,094	12,041	12,101	53	-60
Dorchester	71,126	70,203	70,692	923	-489
Edgefield	10,274	10,259	10,216	15	43
Fairfield	9,259	9,171	9,210	88	-39
Florence	62,488	61,876	62,080	612	-204
Georgetown	24,409	24,143	24,315	266	-172
Greenville	239,675	237,981	238,809	1,694	-828
Greenwood	29,732	29,393	29,691	339	-298
Hampton	7,941	7,920	7,945	21	-25
Horry	131,587	129,134	129,647	2,453	-513
Jasper	11,702	11,544	11,610	158	-66
Kershaw	27,670	27,399	27,521	271	-122
Lancaster	37,509	37,330	37,610	179	-280
Laurens	29,039	28,853	28,941	186	-88
Lee	6,077	6,044	6,063	33	-19
Lexington	141,746	140,178	140,908	1,568	-730
McCormick	3,281	3,241	3,269	40	-28
Marion	11,673	11,560	11,629	113	-69
Marlboro	8,837	8,751	8,833	86	-82
Newberry	17,896	17,815	17,906	81	-91
Oconee	33,395	33,066	33,340	329	-274
Orangeburg	33,054	32,723	33,021	331	-298
Pickens	54,609	54,189	54,396	420	-207
Richland	190,142	187,890	188,965	2,252	-1,075
Saluda	8,513	8,522	8,506	-9	16
Spartanburg	142,000	140,224	141,177	1,776	-953
Sumter	42,124	41,746	41,590	378	156
Union	11,259	11,115	11,192	144	-77
Williamsburg	11,850	11,753	11,838	97	-85
York	128,768	128,008	129,060	760	-1,052

S. C. Employment Status and Trend Index Surges Higher in February 2018



The new year brought the benchmarking of the S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI) and its components. The Index surged ahead in February 2018, gaining from 101.48 in January 2018 to 101.70 in February. With this increase in February, the Index remained well above its 12-month moving average, which rose to 101.38 for the month from 101.35 in January.

Four of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a positive direction in February. The Bureau of Labor Statistic's Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours increasing to a preliminary 44.6 hours per week in February over its revised January level of 44.1. The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index climbed by 6.5 points from January's value of 124.3 to 130.8 in February. The Conference Board's Employment Trends Index grew in February to 107.74 points from a January value of 106.50. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance fell from a January average of 3,652 per week to a February average of 2,173 per week. The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online® data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, fell by 522 in February to 61,052 from 61,574 in January.

SCESTI is well ahead of its year-ago figure of 101.25 in February of 2017. The movement upward reflects positive economic growth over the past year. The strong surge in the Index in February 2018 and the extension of its distance above the 12-month moving average indicate a positive employment trend over the next several months.

South Carolina

Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation

South Carolina is known for its diverse economy and an abundance of local and cultural events with a hospitable climate. Rich in artistic history and tradition, South Carolina offers travelers across the U.S. and abroad an array of entertainment, arts and performances for all ages. Residents and visitors enjoy outdoor activities year-round with few weather related interruptions. Tourism in the Palmetto State contributes \$19 billion per year to the economy.

Employment Trends

Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation is aggregated into the Leisure and Hospitality supersector and is a significant part of South Carolina's employment. In most recent published data, this industry averages an annual employment of 29,370. From 2007 to 2016, the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry added over 2,500 workers. Since 2016, wages have increased to roughly 15 percent more than what was lost during the recessionary period.

Industry Employment

In second quarter of 2017, the number of employees by county for Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation in South Carolina shows that Horry County leads with a total of 5,696, followed by Charleston with 5,044. During the same period, the numbers of employees and establishments for Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation in Greenville were 4,719 and 190, respectively.

Small businesses created 17,585 net jobs during 2013; however, according to the Statistics of U.S. Businesses (SUSB), the South Carolina small business employment level in the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry was 20,462, and total private employment was 25,025. There were a total of 15,913 small business firms in the state.

Outlook

Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation are in the top five major industries by employment, recording 11 percent of the industries' employment. South Carolina's tourism has shown significant growth over previous years, demonstrating impressive growth in the state's economy. In 2014, about \$19.1 billion were generated, indicating strong revenue for South Carolina. Millions of visitors throughout the year choose South Carolina as their destination to explore the sites, theatres, sporting events, convention centers, performing arts and entertainment. As a result, momentum continues to build toward strengthening the economy and adding jobs, which will generate millions in state and local taxes. The Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation industry will continue to enhance the economic viability and image of South Carolina.